



Fall Newsletter

September – November 2013

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Featured Success

Megatons to MegaWatts

On November 14, U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz announced the final shipment of

low enriched uranium (LEU) derived from Russian weapons-origin highly enriched uranium (HEU) under the 1993 U.S.-Russia HEU Purchase Agreement, commonly known as the Megatons to Megawatts Program.

Under this agreement, Russia downblended 500 metric tons of HEU, equivalent to 20,000 nuclear warheads, into LEU. The resulting LEU has been delivered to the United States, fabricated into nuclear fuel, and used in nuclear power plants to generate nearly ten percent of all U.S. electricity for the past fifteen years, roughly half of all commercial nuclear energy produced domestically during that time.



L-R: Acting U/S State Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, Techsnabexport (Tenex) President Ludmilya Zalimskaya, United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Senior Vice-President Phil Sewell, Rosatom Senior Advisor Vladimir Kuchino (Photo Credit: DOE/NNSA)

Senior U.S. and Russian government officials, along with senior representatives from the

United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) and Russian Technobexport (Tenex), the U.S. and Russian executive agents for the 1993 Agreement, observed the departure of the final shipment of LEU from the port of St. Petersburg, Russia. A final milestone event is planned for December 10, 2013, when U.S. and Russian government officials and industry partners will observe the final delivery of Russian LEU depart the Port of Baltimore bound for USEC's Paducah facility in Paducah, Kentucky.



Acting Under Secretary Gottemoeller bidding farewell to one of the 40 cylinders of low enriched uranium before it is loaded on the cargo vessel. (Photo Credit: DOE/NNSA)

Deliveries of LEU produced from Russian-origin HEU under the landmark nuclear nonproliferation program are now complete and 9,630 type-30B cylinders of LEU from Russian HEU will have been delivered. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy's 20-year effort to monitor the HEU-to-LEU conversion process in Russia is in the final stages.

The Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) HEU Transparency Program monitored the Russian HEU-to-LEU conversion process to provide confidence that all LEU delivered to the United States under the Agreement was derived from Russian HEU of weapons origin. The United States concluded transparency monitoring in

Russia at the end of October. As executive agents, USEC and Tenex managed all commercial aspects and logistics of the uranium deliveries and shipments.

Agriculture

Under the Agriculture Working Group, and led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Russian Farmers Union (AKKOR), 16 Russian youth farmers traveled to Washington, D.C. and Iowa in September to learn about U.S. farm and livestock programs and practices. The exchange also created opportunities for representatives from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) National 4-H program, Iowa State University, Iowa Clay County 4-H (a youth development program), Future Farmers of America (FFA), and Iowa ranchers and farmers to showcase U.S. farmer-to-farmer education strategies, new agricultural technologies and rural entrepreneurship programs.



Russian youth farmers learn about new agricultural technologies in the United States, such as machinery (above) and how apps can be used in the field (next page)



In Iowa, the young Russian farmers participated in a wide-ranging set of knowledge and experience-enhancing activities. They attended a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics seminar at Iowa State University, discussed current policy issues facing U.S. farmers with the Iowa Farm Bureau and saw firsthand U.S. farming practices at the Clay County fair. The Russian farmers, who missed their local harvest to participate in the program, told a local Iowa newspaper that they all felt the education they received by traveling to the United States was important.

Business Development and Economic Relations

Co-Chairs at Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Commerce Secretary Pritzker and Russian Minister of Economic Development Ulyukayev, co-chairs of the Business Development and Economic Relations Working Group (BDERWG), met for the first time on the sidelines of the APEC Leaders' meeting in Bali, Indonesia on October 6. APEC is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that seeks to promote free trade and economic cooperation. During their meeting, the co-chairs agreed to arrange a full meeting of the Business Development and Economic Relations Working Group in either Washington, D.C. or Moscow in

the near future and highlighted progress in implementing the 2013 – 2014 work plan, especially in the area of standards cooperation.

Encouraging Trade and Investment

Ambassador Michael McFaul and Ambassador Sergey Kislyak delivered remarks at the annual meeting of the U.S. – Russia Business Council on October 29 in Houston, TX. The U.S. – Russia Business Council is a member-based industry association representing the interests of U.S. and international companies in Russia. U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary Matthew Murray participated in a panel discussion on Russia's ongoing global integration, highlighting progress in the U.S. – Russia bilateral commercial relationship and also conducted bilateral meetings with Russian federal and regional officials, including Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development Belyakov.

Promoting Ties Between the U.S. West Coast and the Russian Far East

Russian Ambassador-at-Large for the BPC Vladimir Vinokurov participated in the the 2013 meeting of the Russian American Pacific Partnership (RAPP) meeting in Vladivostok, Russia on September 20 and 21. The U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Specialist for Russia Joseph Wereszynski served as co-chair for the 2013 meeting. This year's meeting yielded positive discussions on trade and investment opportunities where U.S. goods and services could fulfill demand for high quality products and technologies in the Russian Far East, ranging from refining machinery and tools to process the vast natural resources in the Russian Far East, to increasing renewable energy supplies through large scale investment projects such as building hydropower plants as well as small scale independent power generators that can supply electricity for remote areas.



Participants at the Russian American Pacific Partnership meeting in Vladivostok, September 2013. Ambassador Vinokurov is second to the far right. On the far right at the end is Derek Norberg, RAPP's Executive Director

Presidential Management Exchange Training

The Presidential Management Exchange Training Program, created under the Business Development and Economic Relations Working Group, hosted 51 Russian executives in three delegations that visited the United States in October and November 2013. These groups focused on energy efficiency, information technology, and transportation and logistics, and met with leading U.S. companies like Honeywell, EMC2, and Magaya Corporation. They also met with business incubators and accelerators, state economic development agencies, and participated in business training seminars on subjects such as marketing, IT services standards, and supply chain management. One immediate result from this programming was the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Volga State Academy of Water Transport and the University of Memphis, which will facilitate further exchanges and training between the two countries in the transportation sector.

Counternarcotics

From November 12 – 14, 2013, the Counternarcotics Working Group (CNWG) held its ninth plenary meeting in Miami, Florida.

During the event, the U.S. co-chair, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Gil Kerlikowske, and the Russian co-chair, Federal Drug Control Service (FSKN) Director Victor Ivanov, shared views on a wide range of counternarcotics issues.

The representatives from the FSKN and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) lauded the continued operational cooperation and collaboration between both law enforcement agencies. Moreover, the DEA briefed the CNWG on the NATO-Russia Council's recent publication of a Russian-English counternarcotics glossary of terms, which will be used in the training of Afghan and Central Asian law enforcement personnel.



U.S. and Russian delegates gather at the start of the CNWG plenary meeting

The 9th CNWG meeting also provided an opportunity for the demand reduction sub-working group to strengthen its dialogue and discuss best practices in the key areas of prevention, treatment, and recovery. The United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) briefed the delegation on recent innovations regarding the use of Health Information Technology (HIT) to support drug prevention, treatment, and recovery. The Russian Ministry of Health representatives acknowledged that public health interventions are essential for

individuals in the Russian Federation with substance use disorders.

Additionally, the Sub-working group on Illicit Finance identified two new areas for expanded cooperation: new payment methods and indicators related to narcotics precursor transactions. The U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes presented on the threat and complexities of virtual currencies and their emerging role in narcotics trafficking. The Russian Federal Financial Monitoring Service (Rosfinmonitoring) presented three cases where the joint work carried out under the sub-working group contributed to the identification of illicit narcotics networks.



Director Kerlikowske (L) and Director Ivanov (R)

The co-chairs of the Working Group agreed to continue the cooperation between the FSKN and ONDCP to support the shared goals of reducing illegal drug use, production, and trafficking.

Cyber

BPC Launches Cyber Working Group

The United States and the Russian Federation held the inaugural bilateral meeting of the Working Group on Threats to and in the Use of and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the Context of International Security, under the U.S.

– Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission, on November 21–22 in Washington, D.C.



U.S. and Russian delegates at the inaugural meeting of the Cyber Working Group.

In June 2013, President Obama and President Putin agreed to establish the working group to enhance confidence between the United States and the Russian Federation. U.S. Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel and Russian Deputy Secretary of the Security Council Nikolay Klimashin chaired the meeting, and State Department Coordinator for Cyber Issues Christopher Painter and Russian Special Coordinator for Political Affairs in the Use of ICTs Andrey Krutskikh served as the co-coordinators.

This meeting of the working group addressed a broad range of issues of mutual interest on threats to and in the use of ICTs in the context of international security. A key component of the discussion concerned the implementation of the bilateral confidence building measures (CBMs) announced by Presidents Obama and Putin in June 2013. These bilateral CBMs are intended to promote transparency and enhance strategic stability by reducing tensions caused by threats to and in the use of ICTs. One CBM, for example, uses the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers in Washington and Moscow to facilitate reliable, real-time bilateral communication about malicious activity concerning threats to and in the use of ICTs. The participants

discussed the implementation of the bilateral CBMs, and ways to promote regional CBMs in venues such as the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

In addition to the CBMs, the working group also addressed policy issues such as norms of state behavior, cooperation to combat crime in the use of ICTs, and defense issues resulting from the use of ICTs.

The United States and the Russian Federation agreed to hold meetings of the Working Group on Threats to and in the Use of ICTs in the Context of International Security on a regular and scheduled basis.

Defense Relations

Hagel and Shoygu Meet

On August 9, 2013, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoygu held their first meeting together as defense counterparts and as co-chairs of the BPC's Defense Relations Working Group.



Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel (R) greets Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoygu (L)

Secretary Hagel and Minister Shoygu agreed to build a more robust agenda for military cooperation, including more regular and frequent engagement. Secretary Hagel stated that the Department of Defense is determined to overcome impediments to deeper cooperation

by concluding necessary enabling agreements that will allow for improved information sharing, exchanges, joint exercises, and training. Discussions also included the United States and NATO approach to supporting security and stability in Afghanistan post-2014. The position of the United States also included the importance of supporting a political process to end the violence in Syria.

Education, Culture, Sports and Media

Second Young Journalists' Exchange

Twenty-four young American and Russian journalists met via a digital video conference on November 20 to discuss their experiences during the second U.S. – Russian Young Professional Journalism Exchange program. The program placed the journalists in news organizations throughout Russia and the United States.

Highlights of the exchange for the Russian participants included a tour of the Washington Post and White House Press Briefing Room as well as a meeting with White House spokesperson Jay Carney. The American participants enjoyed an hour-long session at U.S. Embassy Moscow with Ambassador Michael McFaul.

During the three-week exchange program, participants blogged about their experiences and exchanged observations, comments and impressions on Facebook, and will continue to do so after returning home. Most of the Russian journalists were hosted by American families. The experience enabled the journalists to break barriers and dispel myths about their host countries and achieve a deeper understanding of the daily challenges of journalism. "There turned out to be much more to discover than we had imagined," one of the American participants noted about Russia. At the same time, American participants conveyed a difficulty

they discovered with being able to fact-check figures that in the United States are widely available to journalists through government agencies on their public websites.



Russian journalist exchange participants were embedded in media outlets across the United States: Front row (from left): Maria Vladimirova (hosted at the St. Louis Beacon); Tamara Panchenko (hosted at the Wisconsin State Journal, Madison WI); Yulia Shandurenko (hosted at the University of Missouri School of Journalism); Elizaveta Sarganova (hosted at the Texas Tribune in Austin TX); Ksenia Terekhova (hosted at Edelman – a public relations firm in Washington D.C.); Daria Buravchikova (hosted at the Patriot News in Harrisburg, PA); Anna Ivantsova (hosted at the Advocate in Baton Rouge, LA); and Alexey Gusev (hosted at the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville, FL)

The exchange program is a product of the U.S. – Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission (BPC) sub-working group on Mass Media, co-chaired by Macon Phillips, Coordinator for the Bureau of International Information Programs at the U.S. Department of State and Mikhail Gusman, ITAR-TASS Russian News Agency First Deputy Director General.

American Street Dancers at St. Petersburg's Soul City Festival

Three of America's most popular and accomplished street dancers participated in Soul City 2013, an international street dance festival held in St. Petersburg October 3 – 6. Dancers Moy Rivas, Alan Leal (aka "Kid"), and Alain Lauture (aka "Hurricane"), displayed their moves to thousands of young people over the course of their visit.

The dancers – practitioners of breaking, hip hop, popping, locking house and dancehall styles – were also judges of a fierce competition among festival participants and taught master classes to nearly 250 enthusiastic young dancers. The visit by these performers was made possible by financial support from the United States Consulate in St. Petersburg under the auspices of the Bilateral Presidential Commission.

Young American Artists with Disabilities Exhibit Stuns St. Petersburg

“Sustaining and Creating,” an exhibition of works by young American artists with disabilities, opened at the Russian State Museum's Mikhailovskiy Palace annex on October 16. During interviews and in his welcoming remarks, Mr. Will Copps, one of the featured artists, spoke eloquently about how his disability (Tourettes Syndrome) shapes his life and his art, the inspiration he has drawn from other artists with disabilities, the contributions people with disabilities can make to society, as well as the American experience in providing people with disabilities opportunities to participate in all aspects of society.

Although critics were impressed with the art on display, it was the fact that works of such quality were created by people with disabilities that really surprised them. One local journalist explained that Russians found it hard to believe that people with disabilities could be “creative” and therefore rarely were given the opportunity to study at fine arts academies. She said that the notion of a legally blind Russian artist exhibiting works in a prestigious museum – like the artists included in the show – was simply incomprehensible. Exhibitions like this one show the openness in American society.

U.S. Boxing Team a Hit with St. Petersburg's "Future Olympians":

On October 18, members of the U.S. Boxing Team and their coaches visited Sports School #1 at the St. Petersburg Palace of Youth Creativity, St. Petersburg's elite school for young athletes.



The U.S. Boxing Team at Sports School #1

The U.S. Boxing Team, which visited St. Petersburg to participate in the World Combat Games, met with the students and gave master classes. The American athletes were bombarded with questions from Russian students about American boxers. The highlight of the visit was the sparring between the U.S. and Russian athletes during the hands-on master class and practice session.

U.S. Higher Education Fair

October 31st marked the opening of St. Petersburg's second annual "U.S. Higher Education Fair." Nearly 5,000 Russian students attend American universities each year. The fair was organized by the American Councils and EducationUSA as part of the BPC's Education, Culture, Sports and Media Working Group, and hosted by St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance.

Social Welfare in Yekaterinburg

The United States Consulate in Yekaterinburg hosted a one-day social welfare conference on October 28th. In addition to two speakers from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Child Welfare division, the Deputy Minister of Social Policy for the Sverdlovsk regional government, and representatives from five local and one Moscow-based non-government organization (NGO), all presented information on their programs and projects.



Social Welfare Conference Attendees

The 60 attendees ranged from students to NGO representatives to social workers and doctors. The Deputy Minister of Social Policy noted that it was a rare opportunity for persons from all sides of the issue to have a meaningful conversation and connect with their U.S. counterparts. For NGO representatives, the event gave them standing and a chance to discuss approaches with other NGOs and government officials.

Environment

Tenth Junior Foresters Competition

In September, an American high school graduate from Bigfork, Montana traveled to Moscow and Khanti-Mansyisk to represent the United States in the 10th annual "International Junior Foresters Competition." The competition is hosted annually by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency. This event brings together youth from nations around the world to promote and reward young scientists for their interest

and efforts in the environmental field and encourage international dialogue concerning forestry issues.

This year, close to 100 students from 35 countries participated. The students' projects were evaluated by an international panel of fifteen forestry experts. While the event included cultural activities and excursions in Moscow, the competition itself was held in the forested region of Khamti-Mansyisk so that the international guests had the opportunity to observe Russia's vast forest resources first-hand.

The American student's participation in this competition was part of an ongoing collaboration between the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Russian Federal Forestry Agency under the BPC's Environment Working Group. The American student received a scholarship from the USFS International Programs office to cover her international travel, and all in-country expenses were covered by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency.

Forest Restoration and Wildfire Prevention

In late September, three U.S. Forest Service specialists visited Khabarovsk, Sovetskaya Gavan, and the Koppi River to assess the current forest health in the Koppi River Protected Area, and provide recommendations about necessary steps for forest restoration and wildfire prevention. The USFS team included Ron Overton, a regeneration and nursery specialist; Theresa Gallagher, a fuels specialist; and Jennifer Smith, a representative of the International Programs office. The trip was sponsored by the USFS International Programs office and organized by the Wild Salmon Center, with support from local partners including the Khabarovsk Wildlife Protection Center and the Koppi River Watershed Council.



Russian Federal Forestry Agency staff member Tatiana Yakusheva and American student Sandra Baker plant a larch tree together in Khamti-Mansyisk during the 10th Annual Junior Foresters Competition

The Koppi River basin is home to over 20 species of fish, including the cherry salmon and the critically endangered Sakhalin taimen, the largest and most ancient relative of Pacific salmon. The Koppi River Reserve was set aside by the Khabarovsk regional government in 2010 to protect the critically endangered Sakhalin taimen, Siberian tiger, and other wildlife in the Russian Far East. The preserve is an important habitat for several economically valuable fish species such as pink salmon, and provides a migration corridor for large mammals, including the Manchurian deer, moose, brown bear, and the Siberian tiger.

The Koppi River region has suffered from severe wildfires and intensive logging. Local NGOs and protected area management agencies requested technical assistance from USFS partners to determine priorities for conservation and protection measures in the wake of these major disturbances. The USFS team's forthcoming report will share observations and recommendations with their Russian partners.



USFS specialists Ron Overton (Forest regeneration) and Theresa Gallagher (Fuels management and fire prevention) prepare for a day of travel along the Koppi River to observe forest conditions along the bank

Wildland Fire Education Conference

A three-person delegation from the Russian Federal Forestry Agency and the Russian Aerial Forest Fire Center attended the “Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference” in Salt Lake City, Utah from November 11 – 15, 2013. The conference and pre-conference training focused on protecting communities from wildfire and improving community awareness and participation in mitigating risks caused by wildfire.

As part of the Environment Working Group, the USFS and the Russian Federal Forestry Agency have collaborated extensively on this topic in recent years, including an exchange program to visit communities actively implementing mitigation activities as part of a USFS-supported domestic program called Fire Adapted Communities. The Russian delegation’s attendance at this conference provided an excellent opportunity for engaging community members, scientists, and policymakers from around the United States involved in wildfire management and safety.



The Russian delegation with U.S. and Portuguese participants at “Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference” in Salt Lake City, UT.

40 Years of Marine Mammal Cooperation

On October 14, marine mammal biologists in the United States and Russia took note of the 40th anniversary of U.S. – Russia Marine Mammal Working Group meetings under the bilateral environmental agreement. The United States and Russia share several populations of marine mammals, many of which have cultural and subsistence importance in addition to their ecosystem role and intrinsic value.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Russia manage the shared population of Pacific walrus in the Bering Strait region, and exchange information on sea otter abundance and ecology. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration maintains a dialogue with Russia on seals and cetaceans. Other partners include the U.S. Geological Survey, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Native communities, universities and state governments. Polar bear cooperation between the United States and Russia occurs under the auspices of a separate project.



Commemorating 40 years of U.S. - Russian cooperation in preserving and protecting marine mammals

2014 Environmental Working Group Plan

On November 15 in Moscow, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment Daniel Reifsnyder and Russian Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environment Rinat Gizatulin signed the 2013 – 2014 work plan of the BPC's Environmental Working Group.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment Daniel Reifsnyder (R) and Russian Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environment Rinat Gizatulin (L) sign the plan

The plan outlines a wide range of cooperative projects in such areas as hazardous waste management, reducing short-lived climate pollutants, wildlife conservation, park management, sustainable forestry, and combating illegal logging in the Russian Far East.

Health

Preventing Disease

On November 18 and 19, the Director of the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine, Sergey Boytsov, visited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the development of joint projects under the U.S. - Russia Health Working Group in the area of control and prevention of non-communicable diseases. The group met with experts from a number of divisions and offices covering different aspects of prevention, including nutrition, physical activity and obesity; smoking prevention, surveillance, and cessation; and heart disease and stroke prevention. Visitors also met with the director of the CDC Center for Global Health and his team, and toured laboratory science center. HHS/Office of Global Health representative joined the group during their visit to CDC.

Children's Health

On November 14, the Director of the Almazov Federal Research Center of Heart, Blood and Endocrinology in St. Petersburg Evgeny Shlyakhto visited the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD to meet with National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to explore potential cooperative opportunities in non-communicable diseases and human development.

Innovation

Innovation in Moscow

The Innovation Working Group met in Moscow on October 29 at API, a Moscow-based startup accelerator, for its fourth plenary meeting. U.S. Co-Coordinator Lorraine Hariton, U.S. Department of State Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs, joined Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development Oleg Fomichev in leading the meeting.

At the meeting, participants from government, private industry, and non-governmental organizations discussed the role of engineering centers in spurring innovation, the legal environment for innovative companies, U.S.-Russia regional cooperation on technology commercialization, and Russia's strategy to grow its Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector. U.S. firms Boeing, Microsoft, Honeywell, and Intel, as well as MIT, played key roles in the meeting, sharing success stories and offering creative ideas to foster more innovative business collaboration between the U.S. and Russia.



Participants at the Innovation Working Group meeting
(Photo Credit: Department of State)

The Innovation Working Group announced plans for a formal survey of Russian entrepreneurs to assess obstacles to innovation.

University of California-Berkeley Law School will partner with the Higher School of Economics in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia to conduct the survey during the first half of 2014. Lorraine Hariton underscored the importance of gathering feedback from entrepreneurs on the legal environments for innovation in Russia and the U.S., and suggested participants visit a newly created crowd sourcing website to give their opinions.



Oleg Fomichev, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Russia and Lorraine Hariton, U.S. Department of State Special Representative for Business and Commerce

Looking forward, the group plans to create a sub-working group to consider cooperation and best practices in establishing engineering centers. In addition, the Working Group will continue its work on the legal framework and developing regional and university connections between the U.S. and Russia. With a view to the next meeting, the Group will explore issues of investment and pre-commercialization of new technologies.

The Innovation Working Group members joined other entrepreneurs the next day at the "Silicon Valley Meets Russia" conference hosted by Sberbank and Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) at the Digital October center. Continuing a collaboration initiated two years ago with Sberbank, SVB executives provided orientation and technical advice for start-ups and venture capital financiers in Russia.

Innovation Week

Lorraine Hariton, U.S. Department of State Special Representative for Business and Commerce and U.S. coordinator of the Innovation Working Group, and U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe Matthew Murray, who serves as the U.S. coordinator for the Business Development and Economic Relations Working Group, participated in the “Russian Innovation Week” events in Boston on September 17.



Viktor Vekselberg, President of Skolkovo Foundation, Anatoly Chubais, CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board at RUSNANO; Igor Agamirzian, CEO and Chairman of the Executive Committee at Russian Venture Capital (RVC) and Lorraine Hariton, Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs & Coordinator for the BPC's Innovation Working Group (Photo credit: Daniel Satinsky)

Military Cooperation

Colonels Working Group Meets

U.S. representatives met with Russian Ministry of Defense Ministry General Staff service counterparts and other organizations at the Colonels Working Group (CWG) in Berlin on Nov 21 and 22. The main tasks of this Colonels meeting were to finalize inputs for the 2014 Work Plan as well as agree on a final draft version of the plan which can be signed by both the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the

Russian Chief of the General Staff. Like at the June Colonels meeting, both sides agreed to maintain momentum in current areas of cooperation and that additional discussion is needed on U.S. proposals to expand nuclear security exchanges, counterterrorism exchanges, and defense support to civil authority.

Navy-to-Navy Consultations

Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) conducted Staff Consultations and Incidents-at-Sea (INSEA) discussions with representatives from the Russian Navy on November 11 – 14 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Rear Admiral John Nowell, Chief of Staff, U. S. Naval Forces Europe, led the U.S. delegation. The Chief of the Directorate for Naval Planning and Development, Deputy Chief of the Main Navy Headquarters, Rear Admiral V. F. Lyashok headed the Russian Navy delegation.

Six Russian navy and naval infantry officers from the Kuznetsov Naval Academy (KNA) in St Petersburg, Russia, joined the U.S. Naval War College's War Gaming Department in Newport, R.I., for the 2013 KNA Game, September 16 - 20. The six Russian officers participated in the annual war game, with excellent discussion and scenario participation by all the players. They conducted numerous tours including of the U.S. Naval War College command brief, the Newport Harbor via the Admiral's barge, and dinner at the President of the Naval War College's quarters.

“Harvard Generals Security Program”

On November 11, Director of the Joint Staff Strategy and Policy Directorate (J5), Lieutenant General Terry Wolff, opened the 23rd annual “Harvard Generals Security Program” with a 30-minute overview of the U.S. national security strategy followed by a Q&A session. Students consisted of General and Flag Officers at the one and two star levels, and Colonels and

civilians from various Department of Defense and Ministry of Defense organizations. The curriculum included U.S. foreign policy, Afghanistan, missile defense, the Middle East, Arctic, nuclear arms control, and counter-terrorism. This event facilitated constructive dialogue on American and Russian perspectives on current and global security issues, in addition to promoting confidence and trust to bolster military-to-military relations.

Science & Technology

Natural Hazards Cooperation

During meetings in Obninsk and Moscow in September the U.S. Geological Survey shared information on earthquake monitoring issues and discussed the status of the twelve stations of the Global Seismographic Network. Together they developed a roadmap for improving the performance of the GSN stations over the next twelve months, including options for relocating the stations in Bilibino and Norilsk to better sites, and developed a plan for expanded data exchange to improve earthquake monitoring.



Inside the seismic vault at Obninsk (the seismometers are under the three silver boxes)

In Moscow, meetings were held with several institutes of the Russian Academy of Science, including the Institute of the Dynamics of the Geosphere, the Institute of the Physics of the

Earth, the Institute of Environment Science, and the Department of Earth Sciences. There were also meetings with the Ministry of Education and Sciences and EMERCOM.

The purpose of these visits were to explore Russian interests in joint work under the Natural Hazards sub-working group under the Bilateral Presidential Commission, part of the Science and Technology Working Group. During these meetings several possible natural hazards projects were identified. The Ministry of Education and Science offered their assistance in solving problems with Russian customs related to shipment of seismological equipment. The Russian Federal Customs Service practice of levying duties on even donated scientific equipment has been an obstacle to cooperation.

River Modeling Software and Remote Sensing Apps

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists visited Lomonosov Moscow State University from October 27 - November 3 to discuss river modeling software and remote sensing applications. During their mission, they discussed collaboration at the University with host professors including the head of the Hydrology Department and gave formal lectures on the USGS International River Interface Cooperative (iRIC) river modeling software and the use of remote sensing and computational modeling to study rivers and river systems. They also gave a presentation on using computational modeling tools in iRIC for assessing habitat for sturgeon in the Kootenai River, Idaho.

USGS scientists met with staff from Moscow State University and the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute for Water Problems to discuss mutual research interests. Moreover, USGS gave a two day short course, on the use of the iRIC public-domain river modeling software to

students, professors, Ministry representatives and private consultants.

Geophysical Observatory Cooperation

Carol Finn, a U. S. Geological Survey geophysicist, traveled to Moscow and Kaluga, from September 28 - October 2 to attend the “Partnership Conference – Geophysical Observatories, Multi-functional GIS and Data Mining” hosted by the Geophysical Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (GCRAS). Attendance at the conference allowed for continued dialogue concerning a three-way collaboration with Schlumberger on magnetic observatories which was initiated in April 2013 by two members of GCRAS in Golden, Colorado. They discussed a letter of intent from GCRAS to USGS on collaboration and data sharing; and internal proposals which each agency was initiating to obtain additional funding to further the collaboration between GCRAS and USGS. The U.S. side of the Bilateral Presidential Commission is considering supporting this proposal.



Carol Finn addresses the Partnership Conference (Photo credit: U.S. Geological Survey)

While attending the conference, Dr. Finn also gave a presentation entitled “The Diverse Utility of Ground-Based Magnetometer Data.” In addition to meeting with several members of Dr. Givishiani’s staff, Dr. Finn also talked to several colleagues from Intermagnet observatories and

two representatives from Schlumberger-Russia who were also attending the conference. Over the next six months, proposed efforts to support the enhancement and expansion of Russian magnetic observatories and collaboration on expert systems for automatically categorizing magnetic-activity phenomena will solidify. In the near future, USGS staff plans to travel to the Yamal peninsula in Russia to assist in installation of observatory equipment for a new magnetic observatory at that location, to be jointly operated by GCRAS and Schlumberger under USGS technical guidance.

Space Cooperation

Space Olympics

The Olympic torch was launched with the crew of Expedition 38 to the International Space Station on November 7. It was passed from one module in orbit to the next, and had its first spacewalk on November 9 with two Russian cosmonauts as part of its international relay. Now back on earth it will continue its journey to Sochi, Russia, for the 2014 Winter Games.



The crew aboard the International Space Station holds the Olympic torch in November 2013 (original resolution from space transmission) (Photo: NASA)

In Other News...

Film and History

Sandra Schulberg, a New York-based producer whose credits include *Waiting for the Moon* (Sundance Grand Jury Prize, 1987) and the Oscar-nominated *Quills*. Her most recent project, *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today*, was shown at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival and is now making its way across North American theatres and film festivals. It's a frame-by-frame restoration of a 1948 film made by her father, Stuart Schulberg, about the first Nuremberg Trial. Ms. Schulberg traveled throughout Russia in October 2013, meeting with filmmakers, students of international relations, and other youth groups in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, and Vladivostok. She engaged audiences in discussions about the topic of the film and encouraged youth across the country to think about what lessons can be learned from history.



Sandra Schulberg with Sverdlovsk Film Studio Film students (Photo credit: U.S. Department of State)

Honoring an American Poet

The United States Consulate in St. Petersburg hosted a screening of the American film "Tom & Viv" at an event commemorating the 125th anniversary of the birth of famed American poet T.S. Eliot. Organized by the Izmaylovskaya Branch of St. Petersburg's Lermontov Library,

the film was followed by a lively discussion. The film showing was one of several events organized by the library and supported by the Consulate to highlight the life and poetry of the American-born poet.

Week of Films

A "Week of American Films," organized by the American Shelf at St. Petersburg's Mayakovskiy Library October 21 – 27. During the festival, the organizers screened a dozen American documentary and feature films, ranging from a tribute to America's cultural heritage to celebrations of contemporary life in the United States, including the documentary "Great Monuments of America: Mount Rushmore," "Erin Brockovich," and "Fried Green Tomatoes."



Events Calendar:

December 3, 2013: A delegation headed by Elena Maksimkina, Director of the Department for Drug Supply and Regulation of the Circulation of Medical Supplies of the Russian Ministry of Health visited the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

December 4 – 6: An international forum on polar bear conservation was held in Moscow. The gathering brought together the parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears.

December 4: Energy Security Sub-Working Group co-chairs Ambassador Pascual and Russian Deputy Energy Minister Yury Sentyurin held a tele-conference to identify future topics, including Asian gas-markets, and energy security in Central Asia-South Asia. They agreed to hold a Sub-Working Group meeting in April 2014.

December 5: Dr. Bob Detrick of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who serves as co-chair of the Sub-Working Group on Climate Science under the Science and Technology Working Group, discussed climate-modeling with his Russian counterpart Dr. Frolov, Director of Roshydromet. They made plans to meet in April 2014.

December 5: The Education, Culture, Sports and Media Working Group supported a web chat on the physics of one of the world's most popular games with “Angry Birds” creator Peter Vesterbacka. Students and alumni of U.S. Department of State exchange programs from all over Russia tuned in.

December 6: The co-chairs of the Energy Working Group, U.S. Secretary of Energy Moniz Ernest Moniz and Russian Minister of Energy Alexander Novak, met in Washington D.C. The U.S. side emphasized issues of energy

security, clean energy, and the important role our two countries play in international efforts to combat climate change.

December 6: Under Secretary of Defense James Miller and Deputy Minister of Defense for International Military Cooperation Anatoliy Antonov met in New York under the auspices of the Defense Relations Working Group. Agenda items include Missile Defense, Prompt Global Strike, a proposal for a Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (Counter-IED) cooperation project, and enhanced bilateral defense engagement.

December 9, 2013: Rosatom Director General Sergei Kiriyenko, who serves as the Russian co-chair of the Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security Working Group visited Washington, D.C.



Background on the BPC: In 2009, President Obama and then-President Medvedev created the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission to improve coordination between our countries, identify areas of cooperation, and pursue joint projects and actions that strengthen strategic stability, international security, economic well-being, and the development of ties between the Russian and American peoples. The BPC now consists of 20 working groups and numerous sub-working groups. President Putin and President Obama have both re-affirmed their commitment to the BPC.

Please visit the BPC website:
www.state.gov/russiabpc or contact:
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The BPC's Working Groups:

- Agriculture •Arms Control and International Security •Business Development and Economic Relations •Counternarcotics •Counterterrorism •Cyber •Defense Relations •Education, Culture, Sports, and Media •Emergency Situations •Energy •Environment •Health •Innovation •Intelligence •Military Cooperation •Military Technical Cooperation •Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security •Rule of Law •Science and Technology •Space Cooperation •Steering